

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 ABF-01 OMB-01  
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EURE-00 /076 W  
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P 161151Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5366  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

S E C R E T NATO 07815

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, PFOR  
SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON EAST-WEST STUDY

REFS: (A) STATE 183303, (B) STATE 174107, (C) NATO 7265  
1. UK DELEGATION OFFICER GAVE US FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON  
SEVERAL PENDING ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST STUDY:

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(A) EAST-WEST TRADE PAPER: UK DEL HAS INFORMED THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) OF UK AGREEMENT TO DO PAPER DEALING WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN ASPECTS OF THE PROSPECTS FOR EAST-WEST TRADE (PARA 2D, REF A).

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(B) PAPER ON COMMUNIST PARTY EVOLUTION: LONDON IS UNLIKELY AT THIS STAGE TO AGREE TO DRAFT PAPER ITSELF ON COMMUNIST PARTY EVOLUTION WHICH WE SUGGESTED PER PARA 2C REF A, BUT UK DEL WILL REPORT OUR REQUEST.

--ITALY WILL PROBABLY FINALLY DO THE PAPER, AND GIVEN FAST-APPROACHING MID-SEPTEMBER DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF INITIAL DRAFTS, IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL FOR UK TO ATTEMPT TO ASSIST ITALY PER PARA 2C REF A.

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--HOWEVER, UK ANTICIPATES THERE MAY BE NEED FOR COMMENTARIES AND FILLING GAPS IN CONTRIBUTIONS FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF FIRST DRAFTS AND UK MIGHT MAKE AN INPUT IF NECESSARY TO ITALIAN PAPER AT THAT POINT.

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT PRESS UK FURTHER ON COMMUNIST PARTY EVOLUTION PAPER NOW THAT THEY HAVE AGREED

TO DO EAST-WEST TRADE PAPER. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE CAN IF NECESSARY CALL ON BRITISH AFTER SEPTEMBER 15 FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF ITALIAN PAPER, AS SUGGESTED BY UK DELEGATION OFFICER, THEREBY MEETING THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED PARA 2C REF A. END COMMENT

3. UK DEL OFFICER MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON LONDON'S CURRENT THINKING REGARDING ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS IN NATO TO SYNTHESIZE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS (REFS B AND C), INDICATING THAT ALTHOUGH UK DID NOT FEEL PARTICULARLY STRONGLY ON SUBJECT, THIS WAS LINE THEY WOULD PROBABLY TAKE AT SEPT 6 SPC MEETING:

--BRITISH BELIEVE THAT DIVIDING WORKLOAD INTO SEVEN TOPICS (PARA 7 REF B) THUS NECESSITATING SEVEN WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE AWKWARD AND RECOMMEND REDUCING NUMBER TO A MORE MANAGEABLE FOUR;

--TOPICS FOR FOUR GROUPS WOULD BE: 1) SOVIET UNION;

2) EASTERN EUROPE; 3) SOVIET-EAST EUROPEAN RELATIONS; AND

4) TRENDS IN EXTERNAL POLICY;

--WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE OPEN-ENDED BUT TO ENSURE THAT WORK ACTUALLY GETS DONE, TWO OR AT MOST THREE DELEGATION REPS IN EACH GROUP WOULD BE SPECIFICALLY TASKED WITH COMPILING AND SYNTHESIZING RESPONSIBILITIES;

--IN THIS FASHION, WORKING DISCIPLINE WOULD BE MAINTAINED, BUT ALSO NO DELEGATION WOULD FEEL THAT IT IS BEING EXCLUDED FROM ANY GROUP OR TOPIC IT IS INTERESTED IN.

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4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO CANADIANS AND NOW THE UK, THE FRG IS ALSO IN FAVOR OF WORKING GROUPS BEING OPEN-ENDED (REF C). IF WE CONTINUE TO INSIST ON RESTRICTED PARTICIPATION FOR WORKING GROUPS, WE RUN RISK OF OTHER DELEGATIONS BELIEVING WE ARE TRYING TO FREEZE THEM OUT. BRITISH PROPOSAL TO HAVE A SMALLER NUMBER OF GROUPS OPEN-ENDED BUT PINPOINTING RESPONSIBILITIES IN EACH TO A FEW DELEGATIONS STRIKES US AS A REASONABLE COMPROMISE. END COMMENT

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 6 SPC MEETING OR EARLIER IF APPROPRIATE. GLITMAN

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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